IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method in a communication system for relocating a radio interface protocol termination point, comprising:

defining a protocol initialization unit containing predefined information of a first termination point of ~~a first~~ the radio interface protocol by the [[first]] radio interface protocol;

transferring the protocol initialization unit from the first termination point to a second termination point of the radio interface protocol by means of a second protocol; and

initializing the second termination point of the radio interface protocol based on the protocol initialization unit.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains state information of the first protocol termination point.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first termination point is located at a first network element of the communication system and the second termination point is located at a second network element of the communication system.

4. (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the second network element, upon receiving the protocol information unit, generates and transmits a response to the first network element by means of the second protocol.

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit is encapsulated in a message transmitted between the first termination point and the second

termination point by the second protocol.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit is transparent for the second protocol.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit is transmitted via a third network element between the termination points.

8. (original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the transmission is based on a radio access network application part (RANAP) protocol.

9. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit is transmitted by a direct connection between the termination points.

10. (original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the transmission is based on a radio network subsystem application part (RNSAP) protocol.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the predefined information of the first protocol comprise one or several parameters of a radio resource control protocol (RRC), medium access control protocol (MAC), radio link control protocol (RLC),

and/or packet data convergence protocol (PDCP).

12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains information of at least one further protocol.

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising steps of:

defining at least one further protocol initialization unit containing predefined information of a further protocol by the further protocol; and

transferring the further protocol initialization unit from the first termination point to the second termination point.

14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the further protocol initialization unit is transferred between the termination points by a protocol that is different from the second protocol.

15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the termination points is located at one of the following: a base station controller, a radio network controller, a base station, a gateway.

16. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of initializing the second termination point comprises setting the parameters of the second termination point into a state that is similar to the parameters of the first termination point before or at the time the relocation procedure was initiated.

17. (currently amended) A communication system, comprising:

a first protocol termination point of a radio interface protocol;

a second protocol termination point of the radio interface protocol;

control means for relocating ~~a first~~ the radio interface protocol from the first protocol termination point to the second protocol termination point of the radio interface protocol, said control means being arranged to form a protocol initialization unit containing predefined information of the [[first]] radio interface protocol at the first protocol termination point;

a communication path based on a second protocol between the first and the second termination points of the radio interface protocol for transferring the protocol initialization unit; and

control means for initializing the second protocol termination point of the radio interface protocol based on the protocol initialization unit.

18. (original) A communication system according to claim 17, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains state information of the first protocol termination point.

19. (previously presented) A communication system according to claim 17, wherein the control means for relocating are arranged to encapsulate the protocol initialization unit into a message to be transmitted from the first termination point to the second termination point.

20. (previously presented) A communication system according to claim 17, wherein the first termination point is located at a first network element of the communication system and the control means for relocating are arranged in connection with the first network element.

21. (previously presented) A communication system according to claim 17, wherein the second termination point is located at a second network element of the communication system and the control means for initializing are arranged in connection with the second network element.

22. (previously presented) A communication system according to claim 17, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains information of at least one further protocol.

23. (currently amended) A network element for use in a communication network, comprising:

a protocol termination point of a radio interface protocol;

control means for relocating ~~a first~~ the radio interface protocol from the protocol

termination point of the radio interface protocol to another protocol termination point of the radio interface protocol, said control means being arranged to form a protocol initialization unit containing predefined information of the [[first]] radio interface protocol at the protocol termination point; and

an interface to said other protocol termination point of the radio interface protocol based on a second protocol for transferring the protocol initialization unit from the first termination point by means of the second protocol.

24. (original) A network element according to claim 23, wherein the network element comprises a controller of a cellular communication network.

25. (previously presented) A network element according to claim 23, wherein the control means for relocating are arranged to encapsulate the protocol initialization unit into a message to be transmitted from the first termination point by means of the second protocol.

26. (previously presented) A network element according to claim 23, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains information of at least one further protocol.

27. (currently amended) A network element for use in a communication network, comprising:

a radio interface protocol termination point of a [[first]] radio interface protocol;

an interface to another protocol termination point of the radio interface protocol for receiving a protocol initialization unit containing predefined information of the [[first]] radio interface protocol at said other termination point of the radio interface protocol, wherein the interface is based on a second protocol; and

control means for initializing the radio interface protocol termination point based on the received protocol initialization unit.

28. (original) A network element according to claim 27, wherein the network element comprises a controller of a cellular communication network.